

batterydancecompany

Biographies

Jonathan Hollander, Resident Choreographer and Artistic Director, founded Battery Dance Company in 1976 and established the Company's Downtown Dance Festival in 1982. He was a Fulbright Lecturer in India in 1992, and founded the Indo-American Arts Council in New York in 1998. He has choreographed over 75 works that the Company has presented throughout the U.S., Europe, Asia, Middle East and North Africa. Hollander has played a leadership role in the dance world internationally, building coalitions to support bilateral dialogue between the U.S. and many countries around the world. He is also a dedicated arts advocate for the Lower Manhattan community. His awards include the Silver Mask of the Silesian Dance Theater in Poland, Encore Award from the Arts & Business Council and Fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts.. He has served as a judge of the International Choreography Competition in Poland, and keynote speaker at the India Foundation for the Arts and Ford Foundation's Conference on Arts Education in India. Recent performance highlights have included the Hyogo Performing Arts Center in Japan, Nehru Centre and Kamani Auditorium in India, Taipei Arts Festival and a command performance before the King of Cambodia.

Adele Leroi Nickel made her Battery Dance Company debut in 2006 as both dancer and teaching artist with the *Dances for the Blue House* project in Germany. She performed in the Summer in the Square Festival in New York and took part in the Company's six-country tour of Asia. A native of the Pacific Northwest, she has trained and performed with Oregon Ballet Theater and San Francisco Ballet, and studied on scholarship at Joffrey Ballet School. She has served as a teaching artist with the Company in Germany, Taiwan, Japan and Sri Lanka. She holds a BA degree in Writing and Contextualized Arts from the New School University, and has been Battery Dance Company's Teaching Artist at a middle school in the South Bronx for 2007.

Sean Scantlebury, a member of Battery Dance Company since 2003, is a performer and teacher who is equally adept within the styles of modern, ballet and hip hop. A native of Barbados, Sean moved to New York City as a child and at the age of 8 was invited to study at the New York City Public School for Dance. He became a member of Ballet Tech, performing in the Company's Joyce Theater seasons in New York for 10 years. He took part in Battery's residency in Kraków, Poland, in September 2003, performing for the European Conference on Tolerance and the Scena Tanka Wspolczesnego, and participating in the creation of *Secrets of the Paving Stones*.. He has since toured with Battery Dance in Australia, Cambodia, Germany, Hungary, India, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Malaysia, Morocco, Poland, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Tunisia and Vietnam. Sean is Battery Dance's hip-hop specialist and has taught workshops in hip-hop in all of the countries the company has visited, as well as in New York City at Millennium High School, Washington Irving High School and various elementary and middle schools.

Lydia Tetzlaff joined Battery Dance Company in 2003 and has performed in New York and around the world with the Company since then. She began her training with Victoria Leigh and James Franklin in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and continued at the Houston Ballet and Pennsylvania Ballet. She danced classical repertoire with Fugate/Bahiri Ballet NY, Wes Chapman and Dame Sonia Arova at the Alabama Ballet including principal roles in Swan Lake, Raymonda, Dracula, and Balanchine's Divertimento #15. As a member of Ballet Tech, she performed Eliot Feld's contemporary ballet choreography at New York's Joyce Theater and on U.S. tours. She has also performed with John Passafiume Dancers in New York and Southern Danceworks. Lydia is Battery Dance Company's ballet specialist and has taught master classes

and workshops through the world. She was a State Department Culture Connect Envoy to Lebanon and Jordan in 2005, following the Company's second Middle Eastern Tour. She serves as Battery Dance Company's teaching artist-in-residence at Washington Irving High School.

Jason Jordan began his dance career at the tender age of seven when he won five dollars for being the best dancer at a Brooklyn house party. Since that auspicious beginning, Mr. Jordan has danced with Feld Ballets/NY, Ballet Tech (as a principal dancer), Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montreal, Rubberbandance, Cedar Lake Dance, Peridance Ensemble and Buglisi Dance. Jason will make his Battery Dance Company debut at the International Contemporary Dance Festival in Bytom, Poland, and will serve as a BDC teaching artist for Dancing to Connect in Germany.

Mayuna Shimizu is a native of Fukushima, Japan, where she began her training. Mayuna moved to New York in 1998 and enrolled at Joffrey Ballet School. Soon after, she founded Blue Muse Dance, a New York City-based performance arts collective that presents her work as well as film, music and other dance productions. She has performed with Third Rail Dance, Nathan Trice, Slam and others in New York. She has been associated with Battery Dance Company since 2004 when she presented her choreography at BDC's Downtown Dance Festival, and in 2006, when she joined BDC as a guest artist in its Japanese debut performance at International House in Tokyo. Mayuna makes her debut as a Battery Dance Company member in the summer '07 European Tour.

Paul Blackman, a native of Perth, Australia, first interacted with Battery Dance in 2005. His awards and citations include 2006 "Best Male Dancer in Western Australia" from AusDance and "2007 Dancer to Watch" in Dance Australia Magazine. He studied at the Swedish Ballet School in Stockholm (1998), Australia Ballet School (2000), and West Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) where he received an advance diploma in dance in 2002. Mr. Blackman spent 2003 as an apprentice with the West Australian Ballet Company and joined Buzz Dance Theatre, West Australia's leading contemporary dance company, in 2004. Mr. Blackman received a travel grant from the West Australia Arts Council for professional development in New York in 2006, following which he took part in Dances for the Blue House with Battery Dance Company. He performed in *Justicia*, by Jasmin Vardimon, at the Sadler's Wells Theater in London and on tour in Scotland and throughout the U.K. in 2006-07.

Tadej Brdnik, Dancer and Teaching Artist, has been a member of Battery Dance Company since 1998 in New York and has performed and taught on tours with the Company of Slovenia, Bulgaria, Norway, Poland, Russia, Sweden and India. He is a principal dancer with the Martha Graham Dance Company and also dances with David Gordon Pick/Up Company and MoveOpolis. He has toured with Mikhail Baryshnikov's White Oak Project and danced with theater director Robert Wilson among others. He is a recipient of The Benneton Danca Award (Treviso, Italy), a fellowship from the Ministry of Culture of Slovenia, and Battery Dance Company's Eugene Loring Award. Tadej has taught in BDC's arts education programs in New York City public schools, as well as on tour in Europe and South Asia. He established and directed the Teens @ Graham program, a dance training program in New York City.

David Bengali, touring technical director for Battery Dance Company, first joined the company for its 6-country tour of Asia in 2006. He works in directing and design in New York City and surroundings. He is a resident designer for the Stolen Chair Theatre Company, and has designed projects for Balinese American Dance Theatre, New Jersey Opera Theater, Pig Iron Theatre Company, Princeton Summer Theater and many others. He is a graduate of Princeton University,

where he studied theater and worked with student productions and the McCarter Theater and has been on the faculty of St. Ann's School in Brooklyn for the past two years.